

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 HUD-01 EB-08 SCA-01 DHA-02

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-----020949Z 017936 /20

R 012046Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 300

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SE

SUBJECT: HOUSING RAISED BY PRIME MINISTER RENE DURING FAREWELL CALL

1. DURING CALL ON RENE IN VICTORIA ON 1 APRIL, MAIN SUBJECT WAS SEYCHELLES' NEED FOR LOW-COST HOUSING. I OBSERVED THAT PRESIDENT MANCHAM HAD ALSO RAISED POINT WITH ME (REPORTED SEPTTEL). RENE DECLARED USG SHOULD VIEW REQUIREMENT FOR ASSISTANCE TO SEYCHELLES IN SAME LIGHT IT WOULD VIEW HELPING A COUNTRY WITH DISASTER RELIEF IF HIT BY FLOOD OR CYCLONE. HE SAID NEED IS LONG-TERM, BUT ACTION MUST BE TAKEN NOW. HE UNJOKINGLY MUSED THAT SEYCHELLES WOULD NOT BE HAPPY BUT WOULD BE HARDPUT TO REFUSE OFFER OF A COUNTRY - HE "ARBITRARILY" CITED LIBYA - IF OFFERED LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY, I.E., ONE MILLION POUNDS, FOR HOUSING PROGRAM. SEYCHELLES WOULD BE MUCH HAPPIER WORKING WITH US, UK, EEC BUT, RENE SIGHED, THEY ALWAYS TAKE SO LONG.

2. I RESPONDED BY REFERRING TO NEIL GOODSON'S RECENT VIST TO SEYCHELLES (REPORTED SEPTTEL): USAID WOULD TAKE A LOOK AT PROBLEM AND SEE HOW THEY COULD HELP. I ALSO SAID I WOULD DISCUSS MATTER WITH AALC NEXT WEEK, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR MEETING IN KENYA, TO SEE WHETHER FUNDS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE THROUGH THEM (I RECALLED AFL-CIO PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR HOUSING PROGRAM IN CARIBBEAN.) FINALLY, I ASKED WHETHER SELF-HELP FUNDS, IF AVAILABLE, COULD BE USED BY GOS. RENE SAID SELF-HELP HOUSING PROJECT ALREADY EXISTED, BUT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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YEARNING FOR EXPANSION: THE SYSTEM DOES EXIST AND FUNDS FOR HOUSING UNDER SELF-HELP WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED AND WOULD MEET NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION BY GOS ON THIS URGENT MATTER. I INDICATED I WOULD RECOMMEND - AND AM DOING SO IN THIS CABLE - TO DEPARTMENT EXPANSION OF SSH FOR SEYCHELLES FOR FY78 TO U.S. DOLS. 100,000 FOR THIS PURPOSE

RENE WAS DELIGHTED, SAYING HE HOPED VERY MUCH DEPARTMENT WOULD

APPROVE MY RECOMMENDATION.

3. MR. MATTSON ACCOMPANIED ME ON CALL.

MARSHALL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SELF HELP, HOUSING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: EAID, SE, US
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